



**Next Meeting: Thursday March 18**

VA Medical Center Wadsworth Bldg (500)  
11301 Wilshire Blvd. LA 90073 Rm 6401 (6<sup>th</sup> floor) 310  
SW corner of 405 frwy and Wilshire, exit Wilshire  
5:30 PM Dinner (**free**) 6:30 PM Meeting begins  
9:00 PM Meeting ends operator: (310) 478-3711  
**Agenda:**--Debriefing POLST conference of Jan '10  
and future of SCBCC POLST grant  
--Video conferencing for SCBCC  
--Cases from the field  
--permission for autopsy: better to ask:  
(close friend, distant relative, both, others?)

**Upcoming Conferences**

--*Pediatric Ethics: Advancing the Interests of Children*, 4/22-24 Cleveland, Ohio

[WWW.cfcme.org/PediatricEthics10](http://WWW.cfcme.org/PediatricEthics10)

--*Visions: New Directions in Compassionate Care*  
CCCC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference & Membership Mtg

*Register by 3/19 for 4/19 8:30am - 4:30 pm*  
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento

--**UCLA Ethics Center noon lectures**

*"The Real Patient and the iPatient: Bedside Medicine in a Technological Age"* A. Verghese, MD, Prof of Medicine Stanford U Wed, 3/31NPI Aud C8-183  
12-1pm (lunch 11:15) Calendar : 310 794-6219

--**Cedars Sinai noon lecture series:**

Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza level)

<http://www.csmc.edu/13954.html>

**Glossary**

**AND "Allow Natural Death"** (vs DNR) suggests the employment of comfort measures rather than the use of aggressive treatment which may only serve to prolong the dying process, at the end of life.

USATODAY 3/2/09 by Jennifer Booth Reed

**Proxy Consent:** Voluntary informed consent given on behalf of another who is unable for some reason to give it himself or herself

**Situation Ethics:** The theory invented by Joseph Fletcher that says there are no moral absolutes except for love - what is moral in any situation is the loving thing to do in that situation

**Normative Ethics:** Theories which prescribe how people should act. Valuation is placed on right or wrong. Contrasted with descriptive ethics.

**Descriptive Ethics:** Describing how people act in given situations or societies. No evaluation is placed on whether such acts are right or wrong

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/bioethics/man-gl-e.html>.

**Bichira Chofshit:** (A term in Jewish bioethics) free choice. Freedom to make own choices 'even though God has given guidance.'

<http://www.brandeis.edu/ije/resources/curriculum/JewishBioethicsSample.pdf>

**>>>A Wider View<<<**

**International news**

\*Six healthcare teams from the **Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA)**, based in Illinois, have been **working around the clock** since the first team arrived in **Port-au-Prince** five days after the earthquake. Dr. Ismail A. Mehr, Chair of the IMANA Relief Committee, reports coping with varied problems, such as "saving the life of a child in status asthmaticus, or sparing a young mother from a below the knee amputation and transferring a patient to another facility who was suspected of having meningitis." UNICEF and USAID praised IMANA's efforts and asked them to continue for several more months. Follow IMANA at [www.imana-haiti.com](http://www.imana-haiti.com).

\*For a narrative account of the first days of the **Israeli surgical responders to the Haitian earthquake** and how **triage decisions** were made <http://dyinginhaiti.blogspot.com/2010/03/medical-ethics-and-earthquake.html>

\*Various attempts for "**cowboy adoption**" have been made **since the Haitian earthquake**. This term refers to groups—despite good intentions-- who attempt to adopt orphan children after a national crisis, without regard to international rules of adoption. Moving children to another country without documentation hinders the possibility of their eventual reunification with separated family members if given enough investigative time.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8491981.stm>

**National News**

\***American Psychiatric Association** is soliciting public feedback for recommendation for the **new DSM-V** until April 20. Among other issues tackled will be the inclusion of *anosognosia*\* (see below) as an important feature of schizophrenia. [info@treatmentadvocacycenter.org](mailto:info@treatmentadvocacycenter.org)

\***Anosognosia:** inability for an individual who has an illness, to recognize that illness (lack of insight of a personal condition). Seen in some patients with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Illness. "Evidence suggests that poor insight is a manifestation of the illness rather than a coping strategy..."

From the SDM-IV-TR, p 304



**Local issues**

Recently the Great California Shakeout simulated a magnitude 7.8 earthquake revealing many Californians lack disaster plans.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-quake-prepared4-2010mar04,0,6286994.story>

**Readings in the Field**

--*Globalization and Health: Challenge for Health Law and Bioethics*, Bennett and George F. Tomassey. Global conceptualization of rights and obligations is needed to tackle emerging problems.

--*Dying Well*, by Ira Byock, M.D. currently at Dartmouth-Hitchcock has been working in the area of death and dying since 1978. This early work is a standard reference. --*The Four Things That Matter Most* (his most recent book) is employed as a counseling tool by palliative-care and hospice programs.

**\*\*\*\*\*Hot Topics\*\*\*\*\***

The role of physician journalists--including Neurosurgeon Sanjay Gupta-- in a disaster area is discussed in the Miami Herald article as medical professionals face grandstanding vs. dubiously required 'expert witnessing'

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/02/15/1480775/im-here-to-help-maybe.html>

**Heroes from History**

Clara Harlow Barton (1821-1912) founded the American Red Cross in 1881 after starting the first public school in New Jersey. Her volunteer service during the Civil War brought supplies to the battlefield, cared for and rehabilitated wounded soldiers, and identified graves. Joining the relief effort during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, she was introduced to the Red Cross's European organization that provided humane service to war victims. With over a million volunteers and 30,000 employees, the Red Cross provides worldwide aid including recent efforts in Haiti and Chile. [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Weigh in with the Editor...**

Ed-in-chief: Kendra Fleagle Gorlitsky, MD (213) 201-2780  
 Writers: Kyle Graham, Braden Barnett, Andrew Hollister, Brandon Chinn, Shira Frankel, Maggie Cass

**The Buzzzzzz**

**(recent Bioethics items/conversations)**

\*A humanitarian mission to aid Haitian earthquake victims sponsored by the Puerto Rican Senate suffered embarrassment as pictures emerged on social networking websites showing doctors drinking, mugging for cameras and brandishing weapons. While the celebration amid the surrounding suffering may have shown a lapse in judgment, the most egregious error seems to be photos of sparsely clothed patients, taken and published on the internet, presumably without consent. Was this imprudence and lack of discretion in a hardworking relief team a violation worthy of disciplinary action? The commonwealth's medical board ethics committee is investigating <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/01/29/haiti.puerto.rico.doctors/index.html>

\*The appropriateness of conducting what the medical team determined a **futile resuscitative effort** by a Harvard pediatrician on behalf of what he felt were the interests of the patient's parents drew a lot of response from the Consortium members. [n engl j med 362;6 nejm.org february 11, 2010](http://www.n engl j med 362;6 nejm.org february 11, 2010)

\*Ongoing discussion of the best way to manage "**friendless adults**" regarding determining code statues and procedure consents reveals regional state differences and an interest in more uniformity of this decision making.

**Resources**

ASBH <http://www.asbh.org/>

SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>

**POLSTupdate:**[http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccc\\_hcf\\_polst\\_grant.htm](http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccc_hcf_polst_grant.htm)

[www.KindEthics.com](http://www.KindEthics.com) on state of elder care, etc.

**SCBCC Steering Committee**

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Southern California Bioethics Consortium Newsletter  
"The Balance Sheet" March 2010 Vol. XIII